

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraphs after paragraph [0014] of the specification:

[0014.1] Fig. 8 illustrates a partial cross-sectional view of a ring shaped insert and cylindrical clamping means forming part of the pressure control device of Fig. 1.

[0014.2] Fig. 9 illustrates a perspective, partial cross-sectional view of the insert and cylindrical clamping means of Fig. 8.

[0014.3] Fig. 10 illustrates a perspective, partial cross-sectional view of the insert of FIG. 8.

Please amend paragraph [0016] of the specification as follows:

[0016] In figures 1 and 2 a pressure control device 1 for maintaining a constant predetermined excess pressure in a container is shown in cross-section and in a perspective view. The device 1 consists of a substantially cylindrical container 2 with a tapered neck portion 3 and a flange 4, on which a ring-shaped insert or closure 5 having a steplike funnel 6 is mounted. The cylinder 2 - indicated as "the second cylinder" in the claims - forms a second chamber 7 of the pressure control device 1. The outer rim 8 of the insert 5 has an outer downwardly directed ring part 9A and an inner downwardly directed ring part 9B, which ring parts include a groove 10. The insert 5 is mounted to the flange 4 of the cylinder 2 by ultrasonic welding. For that reason the inner surface of the groove 10 of the insert 5 has a saw-tooth or fluted structure used as energy directors during the welding process for a very strong hermetic joint. The lower end 11 of the funnel 6 is closed with a small central opening 12. A cup-like piston 13 with an outer sealing or O-ring 14 is inserted in a cup-like cylinder 15. The space between the piston 13 and the cup-like cylinder 15 - indicated as "the first cylinder" in the claims - defines a first chamber 16. The piston 13 has downward a protruding stem 17 with a broader cylindrical end portion 18. The diameter of the central opening 12 is slightly larger than the diameter of the cylindrical end portion 18, so that this portion 18 can slide through the opening 12. The funnel 6 has a downwardly [[a]] projecting cylindrical clamping portion 19 with

a ~~[[ringshaped]]~~ ring-shaped barb 20 which clamps a ring-cylinder 21. The upper end 22 of the ring-cylinder 21 pinches a sealing or O-ring 23. In figure 1 the upper rim 24 of the cylindrical end portion 18 is lying against O-ring 23, which is the closed position of a valve ~~[[24]]~~25, that is formed by piston 13 with stem 17 and cylindrical end portion 18 and pinched sealing or O-ring 23.

Please amend paragraph [0017] of the specification as follows:

[0017] The cup-like cylinder 15 is enclosed by a cylindrical clamping means 26 which comprises a cylindrical cup 27 which exactly surrounds the cup-like cylinder 15 and has ~~an~~ an upper crown 28 with openings 29 between dents 30. The cup 27 has in its upper closing three vents 31, from which only one can be seen in Figs. 1 and 2. Further, a number of L-shaped small projections or ribs ~~(not shown)~~ 38 (shown more clearly in Fig. 10) are provided on the inside of the funnel 6 which are equally distanced from each other. The projections or ribs 38 are provided at the lateral and the bottom side of the funnel 6. Therefore, there is space between the cylindrical cup 27 and the funnel 6, which defines a passageway from opening 12 up to the upper side of the insert 5. The passageway provides a path for fluid communication from the second chamber 7, through the valve 25 and past the first chamber 16, as illustrated in Fig. 2 by arrows A.

Please insert the following paragraph after Paragraph [0017]:

[0017.1] In Figures 8-10, the insert 5 and the cylindrical clamping means 26 are shown in cross-section and in perspective view. As shown, the cylindrical cup 27 sits on the L-shaped projections or ribs 38, leaving a space between the projections or ribs 38 through which fluid from the second chamber 7 can pass. As can also be seen more clearly, the inner surface of the insert 5 includes recesses 39 through which fluid from the second chamber 7 may pass, as illustrated by arrow A in Fig. 9. Fluid can also flow through the openings 29 in the crown 28 of the cylindrical clamping means 26, as illustrated by arrow B in Fig. 9.

Please amend paragraph [0020] of the specification as follows:

[0020] In Figure 4 an exploded view of the elements of the pressure control device 1 is shown. Especially, the construction of the cup 27 with crown 28 can be seen more properly. One can further see that the stem 17 has two grooves 40 and 41, which are provided at opposite sides of the stem 17. In continuation of grooves 40 and 41 there are provided in opposite directions two grooves 42 and 43 at the underside of the piston 13. Thus, in the open position of valve 25, where the piston 13 is lying on the bottom side of the funnel 6, there is a passageway from the open valve 25 along the inner bottom side and the lateral side of funnel 6 around the cylindrical clamping means 26 and over and through the openings 29 of crown 28 up to the top of insert 5, as illustrated by arrows A and B in Figs. 2, 8 and 9.